

06/05/09

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Re: A National Broadband Plan for Our Future, GN Docket No. 09-51

Dear Ms. Dortch,

I can't do anything without the Internet. My University, a public institution (Rutgers, the state university of New Jersey) set up a portal to facilitate the students' managing almost every aspect of their education, from financial aid to library accounts. They use sakai so we can form study groups and our professors can communicate with us. When I, who have no insurance to supplement the basic care my school gives me, need health information, I can first go to the Internet to see what my symptoms might mean. I can look at nutrition data to stay healthy. I use government sites to manage financial aid, and look up things like trash collection schedules and tenant's rights laws. I had an internship with public health and would look at the NIH or CDC information for that. For what little work I have gotten, I do freelance from my home computer and 'telecommute' by email and phone. I don't have a car, so this is very important to me. I need a fast internet connection to send a  
nd receive information for work. Then-and this is the controversial part, and that is why the corporate interests would like to stifle the freedoms of the internet-it is the only place where everyone has a platform, a voice. Sponsorship can't strangle or pollute the free speech on the internet...some of it is crap, some of it is offensive, but there is some that has helped people and led to bigger and better things that benefitted many, and corporations would stifle all of that, so that they can have the only 'R & D labs' in the world. I can't afford to advertise on a billboard! I know a lot of people whose livelihoods depend on net neutrality. Small businesspeople, freelancers, and entrepreneurs. These people, myself included, are not criminals. We aren't thieves. Allowing corporations to own the internet would make us all criminals. In doing so, you would probably also create more black hat users and dangerous scammers. And, I cannot afford to pay more to get less. I a!  
Iready think that my cable company is charging too much, and they have  
a monopoly on cable where I live. At least that is the impression I get. They do a decent job, but I don't think I should get any less for what I pay. In New Jersey, we are lucky to keep a roof over our heads. We are one of the hardest states for working people to live in, but the wealthy few need us here to serve them. And New Jersey has a better situation than most states, in spite of that. If I had no free internet, if it was stifled in any way, I would be broken hearted. Because I can't afford to buy a car, go on vacation, get health insurance, go into the city regularly to see culture, let alone go to the movies (but I can watch movies on my computer via the internet and netflix); the internet, as I said before, is the only place I am free to travel anywhere, and at the same speed as someone on a corporate jet (their internet speed, not the jet). I agree with what Free Press says about it, in a less

emotionally charged way than I put it: "In crafting the national broadband plan, the Federal Communications Commission must protect Internet users from corporate gatekeepers who seek to keep prices high and speeds slow, limit access to content and stifle innovations and market choice. Net Neutrality must be a basic and enforceable rule of the Internet. The plan must also ensure that every American -- regardless of their race, income or location -- can connect to broadband at prices everyone can afford. Allowing powerful corporate interests to dictate the future of modern communications is a mistake that cannot be repeated. Our nation's health in the 21st century requires that the FCC puts a people-powered Internet first." Please listen to the true experts on the subject. Not managers of multi-billion dollar businesses, their research would be a bit skewed. I would advise you to consult with web developers and inventors and people who understand the internet's economic systems. Independent research is required for a fair decision. In this! case, think about what America means. If you, as our paid government representatives, don't act in the interest of the powerless, if you sell off every last bit of land and virtual space, and charge us fees for everything we do except breathe, what kind of country would this be and in what way would it be worthy of being called free? If you believe my voice is as important as Rupert Murdoch's, I send you my warmest regards, Leigh Foster 127 Raritan Ave. FL 2 Highland Park, NJ 08904